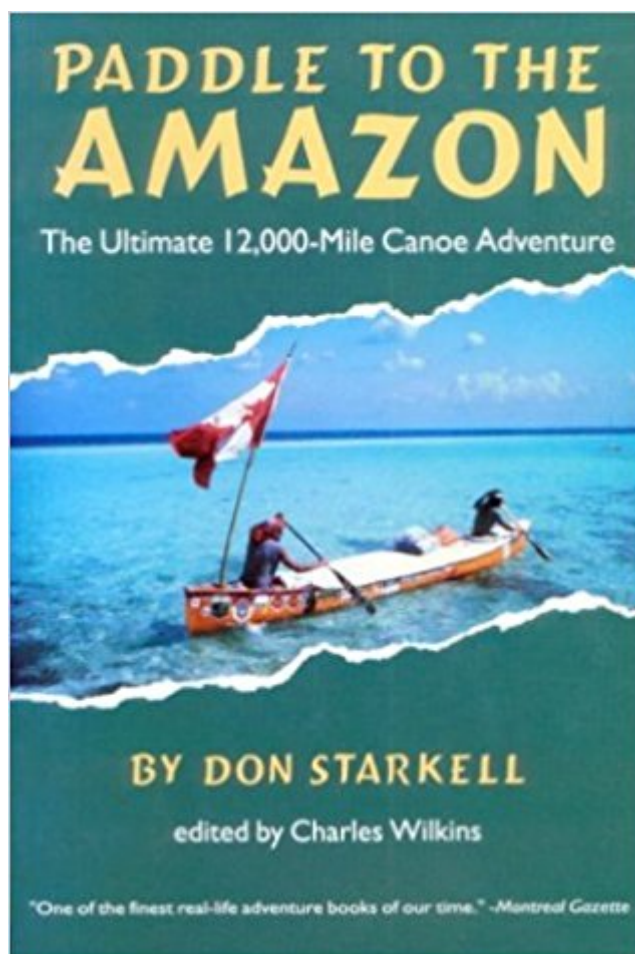




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Paddle To The : The Ultimate 12,000-Mile Canoe Adventure



Synopsis

It was crazy. It was unthinkable. It was the adventure of a lifetime. When Don and Dana Starkell left Winnipeg in a tiny three-seater canoe, they had no idea of the dangers that lay ahead. Two years and 12,180 miles later, father and son had each paddled nearly twenty million strokes, slept on beaches, in jungles and fields, dined on tapir, shark, and heaps of roasted ants. They encountered piranhas, wild pigs, and hungry alligators. They were arrested, shot at, taken for spies and drug smugglers, and set upon by pirates. They had lived through terrifying hurricanes, food poisoning, and near starvation. And at the same time they had set a record for a thrilling, unforgettable voyage of discovery and old-fashioned adventure. "Courageous . . . Exciting and always immediate." -- The New York Times Book Review From the Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

It was crazy. It was unthinkable. It was the adventure of a lifetime. When Don and Dana Starkell left Winnipeg in a tiny three-seater canoe, they had no idea of the dangers that lay ahead. Two years and 12,180 miles later, father and son had each paddled nearly twenty million strokes, slept on beaches, in jungles and fields, dined on tapir, shark, and heaps of roasted ants. They encountered piranhas, wild pigs, and hungry alligators. They were arrested, shot at, taken for spies and drug smugglers, and set upon by pirates. They had lived through terrifying hurricanes, food poisoning, and near starvation. And at the same time they had set a record for a thrilling, unforgettable voyage of discovery and old-fashioned adventure. "Courageous . . . Exciting and always immediate." -- The New York Times Book Review "From the Paperback edition.

This is one of those books I read to the very last page and wanted to continue reading. It is undeniably one of the most audacious adventures ever undertaken. It's a good lesson in what's possible given the courage, drive and ambition (and wrecklessness). I think it's a good father and son story and I envy the adventure this father was able to give to his son. I appreciated that the author didn't spend a great deal of time on his life or his relationships. When "adventure" books stray into those areas I lose interest. Much of the book reads like a diary (and probably is as he wrote it on the trip). There aren't any great insights but there was enough depth to hold my interest. Like the actual trek there was always something new around each bend. There is ample description of the people, animals, foods and history along the way. I found the author to be very likeable and I've just ordered another book by him: Paddle to the Arctic: The Incredible Story of a Kayak Quest Across the Roof of the World.

I first read this book over 30 years ago. I have looked for it from time to time but couldn't remember the author's name or the exact name of the book. My daughter helped me track it down. This book gave the impetus to read non fiction adventure stories. I am a great fan of this type of non fiction because I can live it, vicariously, through the author. I don't have to put this adventure on my "bucket list". It is a riveting read. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who has the "spirit" of adventure in their blood.

Well, maybe you can but it would take someone with a great deal of imagination to do it. Having canoed the Florida Everglades, some of the Gulf of Mexico and some on the Great Lakes I like to consider myself a bit of an adventurer and (at least) a moderately good canoeist. However, Don Starkell's tale of adventure makes my experiences seem very trivial and insignificant. His canoe journey of over 12,000 miles, through some of the most intimidating environments on the planet, seems impossible. What a terrific story of triumph over virtually every type of adversity one can imagine. If you're an adventurer, nature lover or interested in how far the human spirit can take you this book is a "must read". The book is so good there is now interest in making a movie based on this adventure.

just like described

Amazing book. Buy it, read it, and pass it on!

I found this to be both a great adventure story and a heart wrenching father and son story. It kept my interest, a true test of how well a book is written and composed. If you enjoy Jack London, you'll enjoy this story.

Our family is considering doing some kayaking in the so we wanted to read all we could before booking our trip. This is an excellent account of that kind of experience. A good gift for anyone who simply enjoys kayaking.

Too bad we didn't find out (I don't think we did) what happened to the other son later on in life. Sounds like not much has changed in Central/South America in the years that followed!

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